

SENATE BILL 2653
By Cooper

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 4, relative to special license plates.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-201, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subsection:

() (1) Notwithstanding any provision of this part to the contrary, effective July 1, 2004, and for all subsequent fiscal years, the department of safety shall establish and issue one (1) standard specialty license plate of generic design. Such standard specialty license plate shall replace all other cultural, specialty earmarked and new specialty earmarked license plates issued pursuant to this part, excluding personalized plates.

(2) The department of safety shall assign unique identifying letters and numbers to individual standard specialty license plates, whereby the total characters do not exceed the sum of seven (7).

(3)

(A) Such standard specialty license plate shall bear the word "Tennessee" and shall have sufficient space for an emblem or logo associated with the special group or special purpose for which such specialty plate is being issued.

(B) Such standard specialty license plate shall be designed in a manner that will permit an adhesive label to be affixed at a common location on each individual plate. Such adhesive label shall contain the name and emblem or logo of the special group or special purpose for which the specialty plate is being issued.

(C) Such standard specialty license plate shall be designed by the department of safety; however, the design of the accompanying logo or emblem to be affixed to such specialty plate shall remain the responsibility of the special group or special purpose for which such specialty plate is being issued, subject to the approval of the department.

(4) The funds generated from the sale of the standard specialty license plates authorized by this subsection shall continue to be distributed as provided by the statutes authorizing specific cultural, specialty earmarked or new specialty earmarked plates and as provided in § 55-4-215 for new specialty earmarked plates, § 55-4-216 for cultural plates, § 55-4-217 for specialty earmarked plates, and § 55-4-218 for cultural plates to support the arts.

(5) Any and all criteria that an applicant must meet in order to be eligible for a cultural, specialty earmarked or new specialty earmarked license plate, as specified in the authorizing statute, shall continue to apply to the issuance and renewal of the standard specialty license plate replacing such plate.

(6) The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to the issuance or renewal of memorial plates, special purpose plates, or personalized plates, all of which shall continue to be issued and renewed as otherwise provided by this part.

(7) The purpose of this subsection is to reduce the administrative costs associated with the issuance of multiple cultural, specialty earmarked and new specialty earmarked license plates. In furtherance of this purpose, the department of safety shall discontinue the issuance and renewal of all cultural, specialty earmarked and new specialty earmarked license plates authorized by this part, excluding personalized plates, effective July 1, 2004, and shall thereafter issue and renew only the standard specialty license plates provided for in this subsection.

SECTION 2. The commissioner of safety is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 3. For the purpose of promulgating rules and regulations, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act shall take effect July 1, 2004, the public welfare requiring it.